

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PEKING 01716 010308Z

10  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-13 EB-07 /083 W  
----- 061501

R 010245Z SEP 76  
FM USLO PEKING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6285  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1716

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, MILI, CH  
SUBJECT: PLA HEROISM AWARDS DOWNPLAY POLITICS

REF: A) HONG KONG 9751, B) PEKING 1603, C) HONG KONG 9604

1. RECENT DECISIONS BY THE CCP MILITARY COMMISSION, THE TOP  
AUTHORITY IN THE PLA HIERARCHY, MAY SIGNAL RESISTANCE TO INVOLVING  
THE PLA IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL STRUGGLE.

2. NCNA LAST WEEK ANNOUNCED TWO AWARDS ORDERED BY THE MILITARY  
COMMISSION. BOTH GRANTED MODEL UNIT TITLES TO PLA UNITS WHICH  
HAD DISPLAYED HEROISM LAST SUMMER IN FIGHTING FLOODS. THE NEWS  
AGENCY REPORTED AUGUST 25 THAT A RAILWAY CORPS COMPANY HAD  
RECEIVED ONE OF THE AWARDS AT A RECENT RALLY IN PEKING, ATTENDED  
BY THE CORPS' POLITICAL COMMISSAR LU CHENG-TASO. FOUR DAYS  
LATER, NCNA REPORTED A CEREMONY, APPARENTLY IN HONAN, TO  
HONOR A BATTALION SUBORDINATE TO THE WUHAN MILITARY REGION;  
IT WAS ATTENDED BY MR COMMANDER YANG TEH-CHIH, POLITICAL  
COMMISSAR WANG PING, AND HONAN PARTY FIRST SECRETARY LIU  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PEKING 01716 010308Z

CHIEN-HSUN. EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE MILITARY COMMISSION

MADE STILL ANOTHER FLOOD-FIGHTING AWARD (REF C).

3. APART FROM JOINING IN THE CONTRATULATIONS ON CHINA'S AUGUST 30 SATELLITE LAUNCH, THE COMMISSION'S ONLY RECENT PUBLIC ACTS ARE THESE THREE AWARDS EMPHASIZING THE VIRTUES OF DISCIPLINE AND HEROISM. THIS SERIES OF AWARDS, ALONG WITH THE ALMOST CONSTANT PUBLICITY BEING ACCORDED PLA HEROISM IN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF WORK (REF B), PRESENT AN IMAGE OF A PLA THAT SERVES CHINA WELL, AND IS NEEDED, IN DOMESTIC TASKS OTHER THAN POLITICS. SUCH IMAGE-BUILDING JUST NOW MAY REFLECT, AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE, THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP'S CONCERN TO KEEP THE PLA "ABOVE THE BATTLE" AND HENCE IN A BETTER POSITION TO SAFE-GUARD A PEACEFUL POLITICAL SUCCESSION SHOULD FACTIONALISM INTENSIFY IN THE COMING MONTHS.  
DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HONOR AWARDS, FLOODS, PARTY FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PEKING01716  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760331-0402  
**From:** PEKING  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197609101/aaaadizq.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 HONG KONG 9751, 76 PEKING 1603, 76 HONG KONG 9604  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PLA HEROISM AWARDS DOWNPLAY POLITICS  
**TAGS:** PINT, MILI, PDIP, CH, PLA, PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006